THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Autonomy to Air India and Indian Airlines

406. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend sovereign guarantees to Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) to enable them to purchase aircraft at competitive rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Government does not normally extend sovereign guarantees against external commercial brorrowings.

Changes in Prasar Bharati Act

407. SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI B.L.SHANKAR :
SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have any plan for making any changes in Prasar Bharati Act, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the constitution of Board of Directors for Prasar Bharati has been finalised;

(d) if so, the details of composition and functions of the Board;

(e) whether the Government propose to regulate Private Channel;

(f) if so, the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(g) to what extent the autonomy as contemplated under the Act has been granted to Doordarshan and AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 1997 was promulgated on 29.10.97, thereby amending certain sections of the Principal Act, with a view to augment the autonomy and enhance the efficacy of Prasar Bharati as also to remove the overlap between the Prasar Bharati and the Broadcasting Authority, which is proposed to be put in place through a separate enactment.

(c) and (d) The constitution of the Prasar Bharati has not been finalised. According to the Act, the Prasar Bharati Board shall consist of a Chairman, one Excutive Member, six Part-time Members, four Ex-officio Members, two representatives, of employees of Corporation and a representative of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Board will perform functions *interalia* relating to the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Corporation which will encompass both Doordarshan and AIR in accordance with the objectives set out in the Act.

(e) and (f) The Broadcasting Bill, 1997 introduced by the Government in Lok Sabha on 16th May, 1997 provides for permitting private broadcasting in the country . The Bill has been referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament. No timeframe can be indicated at present.

(g) The Prasar Bharati would have full autonomy as contemplated under the Act.

HUDCO Loan to Karnataka

408. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the HUDCO has sanctioned any loan to Karnataka recently;

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka have completed all formalities related to the loan;

(d) if so, the names of the agencies likely to be provided with loan assistance from the said loan;

(e) whether the HUDCO has released the money to the respective agencies ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) and (b) During the current financial year, as on 31.10.97, HUDCO has sanctioned 24 housing and 9 urban infrastructure schemes renvisaging loan assistance of Rs. 41 crores and 114 crores respectively. On completion these schemes will provide 18292 dwelling